CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for selecting a mirrored service in a network environment, the method comprising:

providing a first border gateway protocol attribute;

providing a second border gateway protocol attribute;

comparing the first border gateway protocol attribute with the second border gateway protocol attribute;

selecting one of the first border gateway protocol attribute and the second border gateway protocol attribute, resulting in a selected attribute, wherein the selected attribute meets a predetermined criteria; and

selecting a mirrored service associated with the selected attribute.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the first border gateway protocol attribute is a community attribute.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined criteria is a predetermined community attribute.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the first border gateway protocol attribute is a first multi-exit discriminator (MED).

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the second border gateway protocol attribute is a second multi-exit discriminator.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the predetermined criteria is a smaller one of the first multi-exit discriminator (MED) and the second multi-exit discriminator (MED).

7. The method of claim 4, further comprising a step of providing an autonomous system number.

8. The method of claim 4, further comprising a step of providing an Internet protocol address of a border router.

9. The method of claim 4, further comprising a step of determining a preferred exit point.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising a step of determining a metric between an approximate location of a first mirrored server and an approximate location of the preferred exit point.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the first border gateway protocol attribute is a local preference.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising a step of selecting an exit point associated with the selected attribute.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the first border gateway protocol attribute is a community attribute.

14. A system for selecting a mirrored service in a network environment, the system comprising:

means for providing a first border gateway protocol attribute;

means for providing a second border gateway protocol attribute;

means for comparing the first border gateway protocol attribute with the second border gateway protocol attribute;

means for selecting one of the first border gateway protocol attribute and the second border gateway protocol attribute, resulting in a selected attribute, wherein the selected attribute meets a predetermined criteria; and

means for selecting a mirrored service associated with the selected attribute.

15. A system for selecting a mirrored service in a network environment, the system comprising:

a first protocol agent configured to provide a first border gateway protocol attribute;

a second protocol agent configured to provide a second border gateway protocol attribute;

a distributed director coupled with the first and second protocol agents to compare the first border gateway protocol attribute with the second border gateway protocol attribute, resulting in a selected attribute, wherein the selected attribute meets a predetermined criteria, and wherein a mirrored service associated with the selected attribute is selected.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein the first border gateway protocol attribute is a community attribute.

17. The system of claim 15, wherein the first border gateway protocol attribute is a multi-exit discriminator.

18. The system of claim 15, wherein the first border gateway protocol attribute is a local preference.

19. A computer program product for selecting a mirrored service in a network environment, the computer program comprising:

computer code providing a first border gateway protocol attribute;

computer code providing a second border gateway protocol attribute;

computer code comparing the first border gateway protocol attribute with the second border gateway protocol attribute;

computer code selecting one of the first border gateway protocol attribute and the second border gateway protocol attribute, resulting in a selected attribute, wherein the selected attribute meets a predetermined criteria;

computer code selecting a mirrored service associated with the selected attribute; and

a computer readable medium that stores the computer codes.

20. The computer program product of claim 19, wherein the computer readable medium is selected from the group consisting of CD-ROM, floppy disk, tape, flash memory, system memory, hard drive, and data signal embodied in a carrier wave.

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